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portant branch of commerce. At first the gills and intestines were the only parts used in this manufacture; and as this oil was in great demand, the merchant built manufactories of oil at their own expence, in most of the places where the fishery was carried on. These generally consist of eight cauldrons; four of these cauldrons were built in separate furnaces, so that the furnace being open before, afforded a separate aperture for each cauldron, and the four furnaces communicated within to a large one in the centre. To save copper they have invented a method of enlarging the cauldron with rods of pine wood, strengthened with thick bands of iron. The cauldrons are so built up that the fire touches but half the side, and the wall rises to within an ell of the upper surface of the rings, where a scaffold is placed, on which the persons stand who are employed to stir the contents of the cauldron with ladles of copper. Nine or ten tons of herrings may be boiled in one cauldron, and for this purpose from seven to nine tons of water are required; the water is conveyed by means of pumps. The herrings while boiling, are continually stirred until they are completely melted; then a little cold water is poured in, which makes the oil float, and it is afterwards taken off with brazen skimmers and put into leathern bags. When the oil has remained some hours there, and is separated from the dregs and the water, it is passed through a strainer into a large cask placed upright, which has a vent-hole about the third part of an ell from the bottom. When the oil has lain there some time, and the remaining dregs have fallen to the bottom, it is again filtered, and put into casks containing exactly sixty Swedish *cannes*.* It is then ready for exportation. It is absolutely necessary that the oil be completely freed from dregs and water, for otherwise these particles cause a bad smell in summer. The herrings are generally allowed to boil about five or six hours, and two or three hours more are requisite for it to settle before the oil can be taken off. In proportion to

the fulness and freshness of the fish is the good quality and weight of the oil; when made of old herrings it soon corrupts. The more the oil is boiled the browner it becomes, and when boiled in cauldrons made entirely of copper, it is browner than in those enlarged with wood. Coal and pine wood are used for the fire.

A manufactory of four cauldrons requires from twenty-eight to thirty-two workmen. It is at the beginning of the fishery when the herrings are plenty and the price low, that the making of oil is carried on; when the herrings are dear, nothing can be gained by it. This oil is used for lamps, but not for leather, on account of its fluidity.

The mass which remains is excellent for land, for ground manured with it produces much more grass and corn than by any other kind. The farmer who resides near the coast uses it; but so great a quantity, consisting at least of some hundred thousand tons annually cannot be entirely used in this manner; a great part of it is thrown into the sea.

At the commencement of the fishery, when the herring is large, a ton of them produces from five to six *cannes* and a half of oil; at the end of the fishery, when it is very poor, that is about the month of December, it produces no more than a *canne* and a half. A ton of oil contains sixty *cannes*, in the making of which from twenty to twenty-three tons of herrings are used.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

IT may not be uninteresting to the readers of this magazine to see the plans attempted in the sister country to remedy the evils of their present system of poor laws.—The annexed plan may serve to give a trait of the state of manners in that country, and also impress the truth of the important political and moral axioms, that an independence gained by the industry and frugality of the poor themselves contributes in an essential degree to their comforts and happiness, while a dependence on the contributions of others, by producing idleness necessarily leads to profligacy and immorality.

* This is a measure of liquids containing somewhat more than four gallons.

TRANQUILLITY, AN INSTITUTION COMMENCED IN THE METROPOLIS AS AN ECONOMIC BANK, TO AFFORD PERSONS OF SMALL INCOMES, AN OPPORTUNITY OF PROVIDING FOR THEIR FUTURE WANTS, BY PAYMENTS SUITED TO THEIR CONVENIENCE.

PERSONS of all ages, trades and descriptions are invited to become members of this Institution, which gives to the most trifling subscriptions, advantages equal in proportion to those gained by the opulent upon large sums.

The members may accommodate the amount and time of every payment entirely to their own inclinations. Sums as small even as sixpence will be received, and payments may be made as often as once a week. There are no fines for omissions, should the subscriptions not be regularly continued; but all the sums subscribed, whether little or much, will be carefully preserved and increased at compound interest for the use of the Subscriber, and will be paid to him at the period of age, in a proportionate annuity for the remainder of his life.

BY THE PLAN OF THIS INSTITUTION, married men are enabled to make provision for their widows, whilst the full benefits of their subscriptions are secured to themselves in case they should survive their wives:

Single women are enabled to make provision for themselves, of which in case of marriage their husbands will be allowed to partake:

Children and youth may deposit their small savings, to accumulate for their benefit on entering into life.

As this institution has been commenced without any view to private emolument, the full advantages, whatever they may be, which result from its funds must be divided amongst the members, or their widows and children; it is therefore needless to hold out any of those delusive promises, which none but the avaricious can desire, and none but the deluded can expect. The members of this institution will however enjoy the superior satisfaction of knowing, that they will not be exposed to any of those forfeitures which frequently take the discontinued subscription of a poor man, to swell the annuities of those who have less need of it than himself.

Five highly respectable gentlemen, wholly unconnected with the con-

trivance of the plan, have consented to become the trustees of the funds for the use of the members; and all monies received at the office, are daily paid into the hands of the bankers to the institution, Messrs. Hodson and Stirling, in the Strand.

The office of the institution is at No. 2, Albion-street, Blackfriars Bridge, where the subscriptions of the members are received, and where all persons desirous of becoming members of the institution, or acquiring further particulars are requested to apply.

The rules and regulations of the institution may be had at the office. *Office of Tranquillity, 6th Jan. 1807.*

SOCIETY FOR THE GRADUAL ABOLITION OF THE POOR'S RATE.—AT A MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, THE 23d DAY OF APRIL, 1806, AT THE HORN TAVERN, DOCTORS COMMONS.

RESOLVED,

I. That the condition of a great part of the lower order of the people is extremely wretched.

II. That the many laudable efforts exerted by the liberal and benevolent to ameliorate that condition, have proved in a great degree inadequate.

III. That nevertheless such amelioration is as necessary as ever, and as much to be desired.

IV. That as it is possible that the principles upon which all former efforts have proceeded may have been erroneous, it may be proper to be guided by principles altogether new.

V. That therefore, instead of teaching the poor to rely entirely upon charity, they should be taught the value of depending upon themselves.

VI. That the most effectual way of inculcating this lesson, is by confining the liberality of the affluent to those only who do their best to provide for their own independence.

VII. That every one who in the time of youth and vigour treasures up all he can spare to provide for the season of age and infirmity, has performed the utmost duty that society in that respect can require of him; and if after those endeavours he has been incapable of providing what is sufficient to furnish him with necessaries and comforts, society is unjust if it does not make him up the deficiency, not as a matter of charity but of right.

VIII. That an institution which

shall enable the young and healthy to deposit the fruits of their economy as a provision for age, at the same time that it receives the aid of the benevolent, and administers comfort without conferring disgrace, is entitled to support.

IX. That the institution commenced under the name of "TRANQUILLITY" being intended to promote these among other important objects, a subscription shall be opened to assist its establishment.

X. That the sums so raised be paid to Messrs. Hodsoll and Stirling, Strand, bankers to that institution, and be at the disposal of its committee of Superintendence or Directors.

XI. That a subscription of One Guinea admission, and one guinea per annum, shall constitute a member of "The Society for the gradual Abolition of the Poor's Rate."

XII. That every respectable person be invited to become a member thereof, and that each member be particularly requested to introduce as many friends as he can.

XIII. That the Secretary of Tranquillity be the Secretary of this Society, and report the progress of that institution to this society every quarter.

XIV. That any and all Expenses attendant upon this society, shall be paid at the end of every Three Months out of the contributions, and the balance thereof shall then be paid over to the committee of superintendence or directors of Tranquillity.

XV. That as soon as the directors of that institution shall find it convenient, this society will co-operate with them in their application to Parliament to effect the gradual abolition of the poor's rate, and to encourage individuals in the various classes of the community to make provision for themselves, by exempting from Parish assessments, on account of the poor, all those persons who are provided for by that establishment.

XVI. That this society will particularly attend to all communications of facts calculated to promote its object.

XVII. That this society shall meet every Wednesday at Twelve o'clock at Noon, at the office of Tranquillity, Albion-street, Black Friars Bridge.

By Order, W. Hone, Sec.

* * Subscriptions will be received by Messrs. Hodsoll and Stirling, bankers, Strand; and by the Secretary at the Office of Tranquillity.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF DISTINGUISHED PERSONS.

A SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF JOSEPH BLACK, M.D.F.R.S. OF LONDON AND EDINBURGH. BY M.B.L.S.

AS biographical sketches of distinguished persons occupy a capital line in your publications, I take the liberty of recommending to you a sketch of the life of Dr. Black, the late celebrated professor of chemistry and medicine, in the university of Edinburgh; not that I suppose lovers of science have neglected to hand down his name and merit to posterity, but that a more perfect history of his family and labours might be collected from the different recorded histories of him, than is contained in any one of them, by a person who was personally acquainted with him, and many branches of his family.

John Black, the doctor's grand-fa-

ther, was an eminent merchant in Belfast, and was married to Miss Jane Eccles of Malone, two miles from Belfast; William the III, was her father's guest, when on his march from Carrickfergus to Drogheda.—Her brother Sir John Eccles of Dublin, was so much respected by the inhabitants of that city, that they honoured him with the name of one of their principal streets. John Black and his wife Jane Eccles, were patterns of piety and virtue; and they not only instructed their children in the principles of religion and morality, while they remained with them; but continued their wise instructions and exhortations by letters, when they were removed from them to far distant countries.*

* Extract of a letter to John Black, jun. dated Belfast, Sep. 8th, 1698.